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ER 87-2768X

20 July 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA:

Deputy Director, Office of Soviet Analysis

FROM:

SOVA/SIG/SP

SUBJECT:

Soviet Economic Motivation for the INF Accord

While the resource implications of an INF agreement by itself are marginal, Gorbachev probably sees the larger arms control process as an avenue for constraining external pressures for enlarging the USSR's overall resource commitment to the military. He probably believes that successful conclusion of a major agreement with the current US administration would impart momentum to the process and create pressure for subsequent movement toward agreements on strategic offensive and defensive forces as the United States moves into an election year. If he fails to manage the US strategic competition politically, he would have to deal with it in ways that could subvert his economic agenda. We believe that he could not undertake a substantial growth in military spending in the next few years without abandoning much of his plans for industrial revitalization.

I don't disagree with this but in the context of an INF agreement the reference to economic growth is misleading. It could lead to a real economic growth which is a benefit from the agreement. This is a very important point.



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